

March 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grades 1/2 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco
Teacher

Grade 1 and
Grade 2

Grade 1
Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

Language Arts: Students will continue to build phonetic awareness, expand their vocabulary, study classic stories and conclude a novel study. Grade 1 students will continue formal spelling and practise writing in complete sentences. Language arts topics include:

Phonics

- Sounds: *soft c and g, long a*
- Sight words: *other, together, sister, above, here, move*

Vocabulary

- Abbreviations and calendar words
- Multiple meaning words

Literature

- *Androcles and the Lion*
- *Pliny Saw it All*
- *Volcanoes!*

Christian Education: Grade 1 students will continue their journey through the Old Testament. This month, they will begin a new unit titled *Settling the Land*. Students will explore the following stories:

- The Spies and Rahab
- Crossing the Jordan
- The Fall of Jericho
- The Promised Land

History / Geography: Students, in Grade 1, are excited to travel back through history and learn about what life was like in another time and place! In March, students will continue studying the ancient civilization of Rome. Students will continue to explore:

- The daily life of a Roman
- The rise and fall of Roman leaders

Mathematics: In mathematics, Grade 1 students will begin a chapter titled *Addition and Subtraction to 40*. Students will be introduced to adding and subtracting with and without regrouping. As this is a new and often difficult concept for students, please practise the following skills at home to reinforce what is being learned in the classroom:

- Addition with and without regrouping
- Subtraction with and without regrouping

Science: In March, Grade 1 students will continue a study of *Investigating Materials and Objects* in science class. Throughout this month, students will investigate how material's uses and properties can be changed through:

- Mixing with water
- Manipulation
- Heating or cooling

Grade 1 – The Grammar Stage

Innova Academy's grammar school curriculum builds a solid academic foundation, emphasizing mastery of facts and fundamental skills. Grammar stage students have the natural ability to retain large amounts of information, so Innova intentionally builds knowledge across the curriculum immersing students in a holistic, unified, and rich learning experience. Students are actively engaged in learning while applying skills they have previously acquired to new, expansive content. Classrooms are filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. Strong habits of heart, mind, and soul are reinforced, as students become more aware of their impact on others and build skills in self-governance and responsibility.

Latin 1: Grade 1 students love to practise Latin vocabulary. Please encourage your student to teach your family what they are learning this month! Topics include words that pertain to:

- The weather
- Seasons

Visual Arts: This month, students will continue to explore printmaking and will begin their art unit on Claude Monet. Topics will include:

- Printing patterns
- Roman art printmaking
- History of Claude Monet
- Acrylic painting of the Lilly Pond

Dramatic Arts: Students, this month, will begin to explore Aesop Fables. Topics include:

- Readers' theatre
- *The Turtle and the Hare* skit

Music: This month, the Grade 1 class will continue refining their technique on the Orff instruments as well as continue to learn more about reading and writing music on the musical staff. Topics include:

- Syncopated rhythmic notation
- Understanding phrases
- Suspended pitch
- Composition on the musical staff
- Spring concert repertoire

Physical Education: In gym class, students will begin learning a new sport! They will be introduced to many new skills and then apply these skills in a game of basketball. Students will learn to:

- Dribble a basketball
- Pass a basketball
- Shoot a basketball

Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.

Upcoming Events

March 2nd – ASCI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga Christian Academy

March 3rd – Pizza Lunch; Term 2 Ends – Reports Sent Home

March 9th - Parent/Teacher Interviews – Term 2

March 10th – Maple Syrup Festival – Bruce's Mill

March 13th – March Break Begins

March 27th – Classes Resume

Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study.